(c) whether it is a fact that a particular union securing more than 40 per cent of membership by secret ballot, is not recognised by the Authority; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) in consultation with all the Trade Unions held a secret ballot on 24.9.97 to decide the majority character of the Representative Union. There were 7 Trade Unions in the AAI. Three Unions namely Airports Authority Kamagar Union, International Airports Authority Employees (Mashal) Union and IAAI Karamchari (youth) Congress contested the election under the banner of Airports Authority Kamgar Union. Airports Authority Employees Union and International Airports Authority of India Workers Union under the banner of Airports Authority Employees Union. The other two contested under their own name. The votes polled by the unions were as unders:—

	Name of Union	Votes polled
1.	Airports Authority Employees Union	7076 Airports
2.	Authority Kamgar Union	6424 Airports
3.	Authority of India Karamchari Union	97 Airports Authority
4.	of Safety Servicemen Sangh	17

The Airports Authority of Employees Union which polled the maximum number of votes was declared as Representative Union and was granted recognition for a period of 5 years.

Maintenance of Runways at Airports

2001. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has not been devoting enough attention to the task of improving the runways at various airports;

(b) if so, whether the runways at a large number of airports are deteriorating which may cause accidents;

(c) the total amount spent by Government to maintain the runways at various airports during the last three years; and

(d) whether the pilots have also expressed their worries on this subject and if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India has spent about Rs. 174.11 crores for the extension, strengthening and improvement of runways at various airports in the last three years.

(d) Some pilots had expressed concern before monsoon on the friction co-efficient value of the main runway at Mumbai. The. friction co-efficient was checked and found to be within the permissible limits.

Seat Sharing Agreement between Air India and Singapore Airlines

2002. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a deal has been under negotiation between Air India and Singapore Airlines to carry each other's passengers; and

(b) if so, whether the deal has been finalised and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Air India and Singapore Airlines have concluded an Alliance Agreement in January, 1998 for a Code-Share arrangement under which Singapore Airlines would provide Air India a block of seats on their flights beyond Singapore to points in the West Coast of USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia at an Agreed price.